Old Manuscript Found on Life of Peter Francis

(Editor's Note: The following sketch on the fabulous Peter Francisco, was written by Dr. Robert Hales, of New Store, Buckingham County, Virginia, for the Appomattox and Buckingham Times, predecessor of the Times-Virginian, of July 24 1901. A copy of the manuscript has been furnished by U. O. Rothgeb, local Vepco representative. We suggest that many readers will desire to clip and preserve this article).

The facts which I have been able to gather in regard to the life and deeds of this distinguished man are meagre, traditional and unsatisfactory. It is said that he was a Norwegian (*) by birth and was brought over to this country as a slave, by one Jonathan Dumfries. (Probably mistaken in this). He stayed with Dumfries until he was 16 years old, and located with Mr. LeGrand, the grandfather of Mr. L. D. Jones, for a short time, until the continental army under General Gates, going south after the surrender of Burgoyne, passed by, and he joined in his shirtsleeves and barefooted. He distinguished himself by his prowess and gallantry, especially at the Battle of Cowpens, where he charged through a whole regiment of British cavalry on his splendid horse, cutting down a wide swathe of them with his big broadsword. He also, while scouting alone, took prisoners six British soldiers at one time, and marched them into the American camp.

He was a mesamate and particular friend of the late Mr. A. Forbes, Sr., and many were the tales he used to tell of "Peter the Great" as the boys dubbed him. One of these was that he and Peter, while foraging once in South Carolina, came to a springhouse, which was in those days a log structure over the branch close to the spring, with door, lock, and key, for the reception of fresh meat, butter, milk, pies, etc. There being no other way of gaining admittance except by breaking the lock, which was a capital offense in those days, Peter raised up the corner of the house, and through the hole Forbes entered, and handed out the provisions. After satisfying his appetite, Peter let down the corner, leaving Forbes to his fate, which was a good cudgeling over the head with a broomstick by Madam Shæckelford, the lady and proprietress of the farm.

After the war Peter settled for some years at the New Store, keeping a tavern, a small store, etc. Then he moved to a farm 2 1-2 miles from New Store, on Willis' River — the farm on which Capt. Sam Jones now resides. The farm joins the Woodlawn farm, now owned by the Chappels, formerly by my great uncle, Captain Samuel Branch. .... Mr. Francisco was a frequent visitor at my uncle's, and many were the stories told by cousins of his love of fun and delight in showing his great strength. One of them was that a great bully from a distance (probably from Powhatan) once came to fight him. He arrived in the neighborhood about dusk, spent the night with one of Mr. Francisco's neighbors and next morning sallied forth in search of his opponent. He had to go through a lane with a fen-rail fence on each side, as he approached Mr. Francisco's premises, Peter met him at the yard gate, and, as he was dismounting from his horse caught him by the seat of his breeches with one hand, and threw him over the fence. The man was stunned for a considerable time, but finally recovering, asked Peter for his horse, as he purposed moving back. Peter, seizing the horse, threw him over the fence, and both master and horse decamped from those parts in double quick time, having had glory enough for once in their lives.

While living on this farm Peter went to school to Mc. Frank McCraw, an old fashioned pedagogue, who, though a very diminutive specimen of humanity, believed in the old time customs and especially in using the rod upon all occasions of disobedience. It is said that on one occasion he ordered Peter to draw his coat, which was promptly done, and Marse Frank gave him a powerful drubbing with a very keen hickory, for which Peter thanked him with tears in his eyes.

But Mr. Francisco's private life was now drawing to a close, for, in consideration of his gallant services in the war, he received the appointment of sergeant-at-arms to the Virginia House of Delegates, a position in which he served faithfully to the day of his death which occurred in 1833. (‡) Thus ended the life of one of Buckingham's most remarkable men. He was of great stature, of a powerful, muscular frame, and of almost superhuman strength. It is said that when Lafayette visited Richmond in 1825, the citizens wished to salute him with a cannon in the capitol square, but the cannon was down at Rocketts, and there was no convenient means of hauling it up, so Peter Francisco shouldered it and carried it up. It weighed 1,100 pounds.

He was of jovial disposition, full of fun, fond of playing pranks upon unsuspecting people. He was twice married, the last time to a Miss West, a resident of what was formerly a part of Buckingham but now a part of Appomattox. He had several children of both sexes, but not one of them inherited his great strength, though the girls were said to ! predominate in this respect.

(*) A number of 'histories' which touch upon Peter's life state that he always believed himself to be Irish, and that Portuguese sailors had kidnapped him from Ireland in his infancy. His earliest distinct recollections were of his life among Portuguese sailors, and from them he acquired the name Francisco. He never knew what was the real family name of his parents).

(‡) Peter died in Richmond, and his body rests in old Shockoe - Hill Cemetery. Not far from him rest other Virginia worthies, among them Major Gibbons, an old officer of the Revolution; Chief Justice Marshall and his wife; John Hampden Pleasants, the noted editor of the Richmond Whig; and his brother Hugh Rose Pleasants, long a noted editor of the Richmond Dispatch).

LOBBYING INQUIRY

Eight Senators have been named to a special panel that is to conduct an inquiry into lobbying, campaign contributions and corrupt political practices. The group is evenly divided both as to party and to its members' votes on the recently-vetoed natural gas bill.

COUNTY LIBRARY NEWS

The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit by Sloan Wilson.

This is a novel about the man in the gray flannel suit whose name is Thomas Rath. He happens to work at Rockefeler Center, in New York City, and his home happens to be in a nearby Connecticut suburb. His wife, Betsy, and their three children meet him in their battered old Ford when he arrives home from work each evening. Although this novel is about the Rath family, the man in the gray flannel suit is a fairly universal figure in mid-twenties century America. The gray flannel suit is the uniform of the man with a breifcase who leaves home each morning to make his living as an executive in the nearby city. Tom Rath's wife appreciates the security this job provides, though both she and her husband at times question whether this is the life they really wanted when they were first married. The central theme of this novel is the struggle of a man to adapt himself from the relative security of the armed forces, which Tom serviced, to the insecurity of the gray flannel.

OLDEST TWINS

Paris, Texas.- Mrs. Ellen Whitten and Mrs. Eller Buchanan, 89-year-old twin sisters, believe they are the oldest set of twins stil living in the United States. The sisters, born on December 3, 1866, live with their "baby" sister, Sule, 83..

BIRTHDAYS

Denver Colo.- Birthdays are real events in the Ellis home. Susan Ellis, 4, and her daddy, Milton, 40, celebrated her first birthday on last February 29. Both were born on February 29, Susan in 1952 and her daddy in 1916.

SECOND LEAP YEA

Fitchburg, Mass.- M. P. Haley recently cel her second Leap Year daughter, born on Fe Eight years ago Mrs. child, Charles, was bo February 29th.

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Then try 666, the wide-activity medicine, for greatest effectiveness against all symptoms of all kinds of colds. 666 combines 4 potent, widely-prescribed drugs and gives positive dependable results in a matter of hours. Its combined therapy covers the complete range of all cold symptoms.

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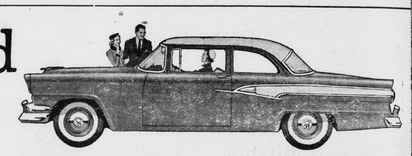

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PERSONALS

Miss Beulah Ferrell is a patient at Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Mrs. Virginia Rosser has accepted a position in Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Norfleet, of Richmond were visitors in Appomattox Saturday.

Mrs. Wilson Paulette and Gene Paulette spent the week-end in Charlottesville.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Thompson, of Richmond spent the week-end with Dr. and Mrs. L. L. Gayle.

Mrs. R. L. Hawkins, of Roanoke is spending this week with her daughter, Mrs. Martin Webb.

R. C. Maxwell has been on the sick list for some time. We wish for him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Algie Almond were Saturday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Almond.

Miss Ida Harvey, of near Darlington Heights, spent Sunday P. M. with her aunt, Mrs. S. G. Anderson.

Mrs. W. E. Chenault will spend next week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Bryant at Tye River.

Mrs. S. T. Jennings and daughter, Carol, of Hopewell, spent Friday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Wooldridge.

Mrs. W. R. Reynolds, Mrs. Hazel L. Mann and Mrs. Sadie R. Bradley motored to Raleigh, N. C. Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hunt.

Mr. J. O. Robertson attended the Presbytery at Anderson Memorial Church at Martinsville, Va., Tuesday.

Sam Davidson has been a recent guest of A/1C William (Billy) Johnston and Mrs. Johnston, of New Jersey.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Stanley and Donna and Mrs. Algie Almond visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richardson recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Mott Harvey, of near Evergreen visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Farrar on Saturday P. M.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tabb and children, of Gloucester were week-end guests of Mrs. Tabb's mother, Mrs. D. G. Trent.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Marshall and children, of Buchanan were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Trent.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wells and infant daughter, Sara Ann, of Lynchburg spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Harvey.

Those who visited Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Stanley Sunday evening included Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Stanley and Donna, Mrs. Algie Almond, and Mrs. Ray Almond and Steve.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Blakeney have moved to Altavista, where Mr. Blakeney holds a position wit Division III of the Appomattox Garment Company, located in Altavista.

Mrs. W. B. Caldwell returned to her home here Sunday after a week's visit with Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bush and Mr. and Mrs. Pelham Cook, of Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Randolph and two sons, of Newport News, spent Saturday and Sunday with Mrs. Randolph's mother, Mrs. Winnie R. Puckett.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sheets and daughters, Beth, Ann, Joan, of Clifton Forge were recent guests of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. Newton Jennings.

Those who visited Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts and Mr. Andrew Goin, of Concord Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Walker Shupe, Mr. and Mrs. James Cordell and Mrs. Wesley Stanley.

Those visiting in the home of B. C. Maxwell recently were: Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Maxwell and family, of Pamplin; Mr. and Mrs. Lenwood Harvey, of Appomattox; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Flood, of Andersonville.

A/1C W. E. Johnston and Mrs. Johnston have returned to New Jersey, after visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Johnston and Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Hailey, for a week.

Guests of Mrs. Lester B. Harvey during the week-end were the Rev. and Mrs. Carroll Welch, of Rustburg; Gene Welch, of Darlington Heights, and Edward Morris, of Richmond. Mr. Welch was the guest speaker at Liberty Baptist Church on Sunday night.

Birthday List

Mr. Willie Edwards, March 18.
Mrs. Ted Banton, March 24.
Mr. Ted Banton, March 21.
Mr. Bob McFadden, March 21.
Penny Greene, March 19.

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SAND & SEA — Beautiful prints and Stripes Crease-Resistant with Controlled Shrinkage ..... yard 98c

SAND & SEA — Solids, Black, Brown and Navy ..... yard 98c

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Solids — New Spring Shades .. yard 59c

FLORAL DESIGNS in Voiles & Dimity .. yard 49c

DOTTED SWISS — Blue & Yellow .... yard 89c

PLISSE — Stripes, Solids & Prints .. yd. 39c & 45c

PELLUM — Interfacing for washable materials ..... yard 69c

INDIAN HEAD — Many beautiful spring shades ..... yard 89c

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CHIX PLANT BED COVERS — With Grommets Sizes 5x20 & 10x10 ..... 9.95

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HONORED ON BIRTHDAY

The children of Otho W. Martin and their families and Mrs. Martin, gave him a buffet dinner last Sunday in celebration of his birthday, which was March 8th.

Those present were his sisters, Mrs. Royal Coleman and Mrs. Herman Moore, and Mr. Herman Moore; a his two brothers, Raymond and Fleming Martin, his children and families, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Moore and children, Fred, Huston, Mildred, Cornelius and Nancy; Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard Moore, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Martin and Randolph and Bentley; Mr. and Mrs. Otho W. Martin Jr. and Jimmie and Richard; and Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Williams and Carroll, Andrew and Kathy; Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Martin, Mr. and Mrs. David Martin and Pam; Rev. Aaron Smith, Mrs. Ellen Moore, Mrs. Graydon Martin and son, "Butch"; Mrs. Fannie Moore, Mrs. Pearl Martin and daughter, Eunice.

Mr. Martin received many nice gifts. Everyone present seemed to enjoy the occasion and wished him many more happy birthdays.

ON DEAN'S LIST

Medford, Mass.- Hugh D. Gurney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert A. Gurney, of Appomattox, has been named on the Dean's List at Tufts University, it is announced today by Dr. Charles E. Stearns, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Mr. Gurney is a freshman.

VEPCO NOTES EFFECT OF FREIGHT RATES

The freight rate increase approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission effective March 7, 1956, will result in an annual increase in freight on coal of $342,000 to the Virginia Electric and Power Company, according to E. H. Will, President.

He stated that of this amount, $200,000 will be passed on to consumers through the application of the coal clause in the Company's rates. Residential rates of the Company have no fuel clause.

The Commission, however, in approving this increase, decreased the increase asked by the railroads from 7% to 6% and exempted a long list of products, namely coal, lumber and farm goods from the full increase. In the case of coal, the maximum increase allowed was 15c per ton.

To protect its consumers, as well as its own interests. Vepco joined with 13 other electric utilities to oppose the 7% increase.

The group included utilities from Michigan to Georgia. Among them were Appalachian Electric Power Company, of Roanoke, Virginia; Carolina Power and Light Company, of Raleigh, N. C.; Duke Power Company of Charlotte, N. C.; and Potomac Electric Power Company, of Washington, D. C.

The group urged the Interstate Commerce Commisson to take note of the fact that the electric utilities consume more coal than any other single industry and freight rates were already 90% of the price of-the coal as the mine. Further increases, the group argued, may lead to the substitution of other fuels and the location of new generating stations near the mine so as to transmit power by wire instead of shipping coal.

IN FASHION NOW

The shirtwaist dress is popular for spring and summer. This is one of the classic designs that is always in good taste. It is worn for almost every occasion. The cotton shirtwaist is a good choice for grocery shopping or for a round of golf. The linen or silk shirtwaist makes a lovely afternoon dress and the satin and the linen with satin or jeweled trim makes an elegant cocktail dress.

The straw bag has definitely gone glamorous. There are beautiful ones being offered in every color under the sun, decorated with flowers, rhinestones, pearls, sheels and any glamour material that comes to the designer's mind.

The matching parasol is news and very becoming. One of the cutest numbers in a recent showing of spring and summer clothes was a mother-and-daughter outfit, each with its matching parasol. Some of the new parasols are very elaborately decorated and can represent quite an investment. Some are simple but just as effective. They are said to cast a flattering shadow over my lady's face, when chosen in a becoming color, casts quite a romantic glow. The parasol pocketbook is a new idea.

Straw imports from Italy are more beautiful than ever. Shoes,- every item of clothing—is being fashioned from the soft, pliable straw, native to that very fashion-conscious country. The coloring process is said to be much improved and more lasting. The best advice in this department is — don't try to economize. If you buy the cheapest garment offered it may well prove to be the most expensive because it will not hold up and will not keep its color.

In the bathing suit department look for a revival of the tank suit. These suits, for the most part, need an almost perfect figure to be becoming. However, manufacturers say they are making them by the thousands and that American women will wear them. They are improved over the old type tank suit in that the materials are far better and they all feature a built-in bra.

Big, bold rings are still being seen. Earrings are big and bold too, but not long and dangling as before. Fresh flowers are being fashioned into earrings. In fact, a pair of earrings that were nothing more than two small plastic tubes attached to earring backs, recently made news at a New York fashion showing.

JAILED FOR SLEEP IN JAIL

Louisville, Ky.- Found snoozing in a third-floor cell of Louisville's new police building, Coleman R. Lee, 52, was locked up in another jail. The trouble was that the new jail hadn't been opened. Lee said he had slept there 24 times recently by taking a self-service elevator.

DOG TOO LATE

New York.- After a two - month kennel course in burglar detection, and capture, an 8-month-old Kerry Blue dog was graduated and taken home by his mistress, Patty Finnegan. However, the dog had arrived too late, the place had been burgled of $3,000 worth of jewelry.

Appomattox is a growing town.

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1955 FORD V8 Victoria. Automatic transmission, radio, heater, white wall tires, two tone paint, wheel covers, back-up lights, 282 H.P. motor.

1955 FORD V8 2 door Custom. Automatic transmission, Magic-Air heater, two tone paint, only 6000 miles.

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1949 CHEVROLET 4-door Delux. Radio, heater, low mileage, clean as a pin.

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1954 FORD 2-ton, V8 motor, 2-speed axle. Good rubber.

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1944 GMC 2-ton. Only $95.00.

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MR. L. W. BRYANT

We regret to report that Mr. L. W. Bryant passed away last night. He was a patient at McGuire Hospital, Richmond. We express sympathy to the bereaved family.

Funeral arrangements have not been made as we go to press.

Minstrel at Pamplin School

The Pamplin Ruritan Club is sponsoring a minstrel at the Pamplin school auditorium on Friday and Saturday nights, March 23 and 24. The performance begins at 8:00 o'clock.

No matter how cold it may get, never warm up your tractor, truck, or automobile in a closed garage or shed. The carbon monoxide from the vehicle's exhaust is odorless, colorless, and gives no warning — but it is deadly when allowed to concentrate in closed area, says the Virginia Rural Safety Council.

ELEMENTAY SCHOOL CAFETERIA MENU

March 19.- Sliced ham with hot cheese biscuit, black-eyed peas, fruit cocktail, cookies, 1-2 pint milk.

Tuesday, March 20.- 1-2 grilled cheese sandwich, 1-2 peanut butter sandwich, string beans, apple sauce, cinnamon bun, 1-2 pint milk.

Wednesday, March 21.- Hot dog on roll with dressing, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, ice cream, 1-2 pint milk.

Thursday, March 22.- Pinto beans with tomato catsup, scalloped potatoes with cheese, turnip greens, batter bread, cookies, 1-2 pint milk.

Friday, March 23.- Hamburger on bun, slice cheese, spaghetti, grape fruit sections, ginger bread, 1-2 pint milk.

A good pasture furnishes cheaper feed than any other crop on the farm, say VPI agronomists.

for a Happy Easter give Hollingsworth's UNUSUAL CANDIES

Selected Easter Candies 49¢ to $4.00

My Hobby Box Selected Chocolates . . . $2.00 lb.
Funny Bunny Trio of Hollow Milk Chocolate
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(Cotton, Faille and Pima Silk)
LADIES & MISSES SUITS—9-22½ .. 6.95—15.95
LADIES BLOUSES — 32-42 ..... 1.98 — 4.98
LINEN & COTTON SKIRTS—22-30 .. 3.59—5.75
(Assorted Styles and Shades)
TOPPERS — 10-16 ..... 6.95 — 12.95
(Wool and Faille)
DUSTERS — 10-16 ..... 6.95 — 12.95
(Faille, Rayon and Cotton)
DAN RIVER COTTONS — 12-48 .. 5.75 — 5.95
HATS BY PEGGY ..... 2.48 — 4.98
(Children's and Ladies)
HANDBAGS — Plus Tax 1.98
GLOVES — 6-8 ..... 1.00 — 1.98
(White in Nylon Stretch and Fabrics)
CHILDREN'S GLOVES 1.49
(Nylon Stretch)
NYLON SLIPS — 32-44 ..... 2.98 — 3.95
MOJUD HOSE ..... 1.00 — 1.98
(Regulars, Seamless and Stretch)

PIN-ON FLOWERS ..... 29c — 39c
RICHLEIN-PAPPIT PEARLS — Plus Tax 98c
(Assortment of Colors)
COSTUME JEWELRY — Plus Tax .. 29c — 1.98
EASTER BASKETS ..... 25c — 2.59
PLUSH TOYS ..... 1.00 — 3.98
EASTER CARDS ..... 5c — 10c
EASTER NAPKINS ..... 15c pkg.

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